

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 10028 191543Z

42

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2588

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10028

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KISSINGER, HENRY A., BR

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN TRIP

REFS: STATE 266001, BRASILIA 9930

1. IF, AS I ASSUME, THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE, PERHAPS THE ONLY PURPOSE, OF THE SECRETARY'S CALL IS TO PIN DOWN DATES FOR THE VISIT, I RECOMMEND THAT IT BE POSTPONED UNTIL WE HAVE SOME MORE TIME TO SEE THE EFFECTS OF THE SEVERE DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF SILVEIRA AND HIS POLICY.

2. MY IDEA IS THAT, FIRST, THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THE CRITICISM, WHICH IN CONSIDERABLE PART IS DIRECTED AT A THIRD-WORLDISM THAT HAS RESULTED IN BRAZIL'S FINDING ITSELF ALIGNED WITH THE WRONG COUNTRIES AGAINST ITS TRADITIONAL ASSOCIATES, WILL HAVE A CHASTENING EFFECT ON SILVEIRA AND ON THE ADMINISTRATION OR WILL RESULT IN THE PRESIDENCY'S REINING IN SILVEIRA. THIS CAN REDOUND TO OUR BENEFIT. SECOND, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD DO NOTHING TO EASE SILVEIRA'S POSITION OR TO DAMPEN THE POSSIBLE CHASTENING EFFECT. (WE ARE, IT SHOULD BE NOTED, DOING NOTHING TO WORSEN HIS POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING TO POINT DISCREETLY TO THE GOB STANCE ON THE PROCEDURAL VOTE ON THE IMPORTANT SECURITY ISSUE OF KOREA AS ANOTHER AND STRIKING EXAMPLE OF BRAZIL'S CONFIDENTIAL

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ALIGNMENT WITH ONLY CUBA AND GUYANA IN THE HEMISPHERE IN

CONSEQUENCE OF A DESIRE TO CURRY THIRD-WORLD FAVOR. I CONSIDER THIS HANDS-OFF POSTURE CORRECT BECAUSE, AT A TIME WHEN DOMESTIC FORCES ARE PRESSING FOR A RETURN TO PRINCIPLE, I DO NOT WANT TO RUN ANY RISK OF GIVING SILVEIRA A CHANCE TO POSE AS A MARTYR TO "FOREIGN PRESSURE" OR OF ALIENATING HIM UNDULY SINCE IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE REGIME, HE MAY BE IN OFFICE FOR SOME TIME.)

3. A CALL AT THIS TIME FROM THE SECRETARY, PARTICULARLY IF IT WERE TO ESTABLISH DATES FOR A VISIT, COULD BE USED BY SILVEIRA TO HELP HIMSELF OFF A HOOK WHICH HE DEVISED HIMSELF--EVEN THOUGH GEISEL UNDOUBTEDLY ACCEPTED SILVEIRA'S ADVICE AND MADE THE FINAL DECISIONS. GIVEN SILVEIRA'S PAST READINESS TO LEAK COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SECRETARY WHEN IT SERVED HIS PURPOSE, THE ODDS ARE VERY GOOD THAT SILVEIRA'S CURRENT NEEDS WOULD LEAD HIM TO EXPLOIT THE CALL ALONG THE LINE THAT HIS GOOD FRIEND HENRY AND HE HAD HAD A CORDIAL, INTIMATE CHAT, THAT EVERYTHING BETWEEN THEM WAS JUST GREAT AND THAT SO FAR AS HENRY WAS CONCERNED BRAZILIAN POSITIONS WERE UNDERSTANDABLE. IF THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSION OF FIRM DATES, SILVEIRA PROBABLY WOULD NOT REVEAL THEM BUT COULD VERY WELL HINT THAT THE TRIP WAS WELL ADVANCED.

4. EVEN IF SILVEIRA WAS NOT TO GO PUBLIC, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT VOLUNTEER HIM SURCEASE. SWEATING A LITTLE MIGHT BE GOOD FOR HIS SOUL AND HIS POLICIES.

5. THE NET OF THIS IS THAT I RECOMMEND THAT WE WAIT ABOUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS BEFORE GOING BACK FIRMLY ON DATES FOR THE VISIT. THE FACT OF MY BEING IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK PERMITS US TO SAY, IF ASKED BY ITAMARATY, THAT I WILL BE CONSULTING ON THE VISIT AND THAT I WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE FURTHER WORD ON MY RETURN, THAT IS, SOME TIME AFTER DECEMBER 1. WE CAN DETERMINE THEN THE TIMING FOR FIXING THE DATES OF THE VISIT.

6. YOU WILL NOTE THAT I ASSUME THAT THE VISIT WILL OCCUR. I STILL BELIEVE IT SHOULD, ALTHOUGH THE TONE MAY BE SOMEWAHT DIFFERENT FROM THAT ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE SECRETAY MAY ENCOUNTER A SOMEWHAT CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE REINED-IN, LESS PEDANTIC, LESS COCKY SILVEIRA.
CRIMMINS

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